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CONTADORA MINISTERS UNSUCCESSFUL IN ASYLUM CASE

PA051507 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 5 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] The four vice ministers of the Contadora Group, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama, met with their counterparts from Nicaragua and Costa Rica, in Panama, yesterday, and failed to meet an agreement in the case of Nicaraguan Jose Manuel Urbina Lara who sought asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua on Dec. 24, 1984.

Carlos Jose Gutierrez, Foreign Minister of Costa Rica, said that he was informed that no agreement was reached on the issue, and he expected that same be favorably resolved at the next meeting of the group to be held next week. He reiterated that Costa Rica will not attend the scheduled meeting of Feb. 14-15, unless there is a clarification of the Urbina issue, stressing that the right of political asylum must be honored.

Costa Rica alleges that Urbina Lara was forcibly taken out of the embassy by Nicaraguan authorities. Nicaragua on the other hand, claims that Urbina Lara, who failed to enlist in the Nicaragua Army, was captured as he tried to escape from the embassy, and will be tried in Nicaraguan courts as a deserter.

CEPAL OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON DEBT NEGOTIATIONS

PY012300 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 31 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Rio de Janeiro (DAILY POST) -- Latin American governments are edging closer to their goal of meeting jointly with rich creditor nations to discuss their $350 billion foreign debt, a senior regional official said Wednesday.

Enrique Iglesias, general secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America, or CEPAL, said he saw the Feb. 7 meeting in Santo Domingo of the so-called Cartagena group as the place where creditor nations will be invited to talk. The invitation would not imply any face-off between the rich and the poor, nor would their be any suggestion that the poorer nations would form a "debtors club" to force better terms on their loans, Iglesias said.

During a news conference at the end of a three-day meeting of trade and economy officials from 11 nations, Iglesias said the easing debt crisis and the improved economic performance of many Latin debtors increased the chances of dialogue. "I am more optimistic now than a year ago," he said.

Iglesias said the Cartagena group of Latin American debtors -- so named because it first met last year in the Colombia resort city of Cartagena -- had issued only a "general" invitation to creditor nations at the debtor groups last meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

"But Santo Domingo could be a much more concrete step in this process of talking with the developed countries," he said. Iglesias would not commit himself to saying any creditor-debtor meeting would take place this year. He said the attitude of the United States was fundamental to the success of any such dialogue.

Although the Mar del Plata talks plea was met with a cold shoulder by the U.S., Iglesias said he was now confident a break-through was possible. He cited the increasing signs of willingness by some European countries to discuss foreign debts on a government-to-government level.

Debtor nations want to sit down with creditor governments to discuss items like interest rates and trade protection within the context of their foreign debts.

Iglesias called the Cartagena discussions process a "concrete reality" and compared it with two years ago when some Latin American nations were afraid to sit down together for fear they were seen as a "debtors club." "Latin America must rediscover its capacity to create a unified presence," he said.

CEPAL economists projected the region's $350 billion debt would grow through 1994 if yearly interest payments were restricted to either 25 percent or 20 percent of total export earnings. Now those payments represent about 40 percent of the expert earnings.

CARIBBEAN OFFICIAL ON NEED FOR MORE IDB RESOURCES

FL051734 Bridgetown CANA in English 1615 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Washington, Feb 5, CANA -- The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) should channel more resources to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Ambassador Franklin Baron of Dominica told a ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the IDB. The OAS Permanent Council, chaired by Baron, held a special session to pay tribute to the Washington-based IDB, which was founded in 1959.

Baron criticized factors constraining smaller Caribbean states from becoming members of the IDB, but praised the bank's assistance to the region by means of resources channelled through the Caribbean Development Bank.

An increase in IDB resources funneled to the Caribbean Development Bank is an important priority for us in the subregion, and we would welcome a more flexible, compassionate approach on the part of all the multinational financing agencies to allow us greater participation in these development efforts, he said.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues on the council, Baron said that it was important for international banks to realize that Third World leaders must be socially sensitive as well as economically responsible. Prolonged crises cannot be allowed to threaten our established democratic institutions.

The Dominican diplomat said that another policy of the international lending institutions and donor countries which complicates life for smaller Third World nations is the practice of measuring lending and grant assistance on a per capita basis. There exist instances of smaller, less populated countries with developing economies that require economic assistance for infrastructure projects such as port development and airport construction, which would benefit the entire region but which exceed the per capita lending assistance limitations.

It is such policies as these, Baron said, that require innovative change if the full benefits of the lending institutions input is to achieve the objective of economic growth, social justice, and political stability.

Also speaking at today's council session were the secretary general of the OAS, Joao Clemente Baena Soares, and the president of the IDB, Antonio Ortiz Mena. Baena Soares emphasized the important work of the IDB in overcoming the present economic crisis confronting its member countries and said that the OAS and particularly its General Secretariat wish to be steady and trustworthy partners in this noble task.

RETIRED ADMIRAL WARNS GOVERNMENT ABOUT COUP

PY040015 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1203 GMT 3 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Mar del Plata, 3 Feb (NA) -- Rear Admiral Horacio Zaratiegui, retired, today stated that he was against a coup d'etat, but reiterated his warning that "unless the government is careful in handling the affairs of the Armed Forces, it can sow seeds which may sprout into a coup d'etat in the future."

Speaking to the local morning daily LA CAPITAL, Zaratiegui said: "I do not favor the coup d'etat, on the contrary, I am against coups d'etat."

Further on he explained that "the journalists can decide whether I am right or wrong when I say that the Radicals are arrogant," and went on to add: "Every so often when ministers are asked questions they do not like they get angry and cause incidents." He added that "when I say that the authorities are arrogant, please take it as the criticism of a citizen who has done nothing that disqualifies his opinion." Zaratiegui stressed: "I am a citizen of some standing and I am warning the government to be less arrogant and more careful." He added: "Do not sow seeds of discord within the Armed Forces."

SPECIALISTS REMAIN ON ARMED FORCES COUNCIL

PY052320 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Feb 85 p 7

[Text] (NA) -- Three military legal specialists who were members of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces which resigned en bloc last October have agreed to continue in their posts but have asked to be relieved of their duties within a 90-day period, Defence Ministry sources said yesterday.

The sources said agreement between Army General Eros Casez, Rear Admiral Juan Carlos Frias and Air Force Brigadier Carlos Echegoyen (all retired) and Defence Secretary Horacio Jaunarena was reached at a meeting on Friday. The sources said this would ensure juridical continuity of the cases before the council whose membership will be completed tomorrow with the swearing-in of six officers appointed last week. Air Force Colonel Hector Canale will alsc be sworn in as the council's prosecutor.

A fourth legal specialist, Brigadier Julio Gomez, did not attend the meeting because he was out of town. But the sources said Gomez had asked to be excused from sitting in judgement on the cases related to violation of human rights during the so-called dirty war against subversion because he had been justice minister at one time during the former military regime.

IMF MONITORING TEAM MEETS WITH GRINSPUN

PY052315 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Feb 85 p 7

[Text] (NA) -- An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission arrived here yesterday to monitor Argentina's progress in the light of last December's agreement with the IMF as well as to examine the recently completed draft budget for 1985. The IMF team, headed by Spanish economist Joaquin Ferran, met Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun, Central Bank President Enrique Garcia Vazquez, and other senior economic officials The team was reportedly concerned about double-digit monthly inflation and the decision to increase the losses incurred by public utilities in pegging transport fare and fuel price increases 10 percent below inflation.

DISSIDENT PERONISTS REJECT BEAGLE TREATY

PY052335 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Feb 85 p 1

[Excerpt] Riottondo (NA-DYN) -- The dissident National Council announced yesterday it would expel from the party ranks any Justicialist senator who voted in favour of the peace and friendhip treaty with Chile, when it comes up for approval in the next session of Congress. The treaty, which grants a zone of the disputed Beagle Channel territory to Chile in exchange for the abandonment of other claims, was earlier passed in the lower house where the Radical Party holds a 129-111 congressional edge over the Peronists. It was also backed by 80 percent of the Argentines who voted in a popular plebiscite held last November.

The new 25-member Peronist National Council was officially announced by San Luis Senator Oraldo Britos at a 5:40 am press conference yesterday morning, four hours after the dissident congress held here came to a close, and hours later the council authorities elected at last December's Odeon congress in Buenos Aires announced it was beginning legal steps to nullify the rebel summit. The council is headed by Maria Estela Martinez de Peron in the presidency, Britos as 1st vice president, and San Juan national deputy Mrs Olga Flores as 3rd vice president. The 2nd vice presidency was left open to be later filled by a labour representative. Former Cordoba mayoral candidate Juan Manuel de la Sota became secretary general, while other prominent Peronists among the ten secretaries include verticalist leader Humberto Romero (organization) and Santa Fe deputy Ruben Cardozo, 2nd lower house bloc president (international affairs)

Britos also said the council would meet tomorrow in the Federal Capital to name three people who would handle the intervention of the Buenos Aires party, which was unanimously approved by congress delegates over the weekend. Asked about prospective relations between the two councils, he replied: "There are not two councils; we are the leadership." He said talks could now begin with those opposed to the new council -- meaning metal workers leader Lorenzo Miguel, Avellaneda party boss Herminio Iglesias and Santa Fe Governor Jose Maria Vernet -- but "only on the basis of their recognizing our authority.

Senate Vote To Be Close

PY051730 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2045 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 4 Feb (NA) -- The decision of the Peronist renewal Congress to order its participants to vote against the agreement with Chile, a decision shared by Neuquen Senator Elias Sapag, will not prevent the Radical Civic Union [UCR] from having the agreement ratified by the Senate, even if the voting results in a tie which will have to be resolved by the Senate president's vote, UCR Congress sources said. The same sources added that the ratification of the agreement with Chile may be obtained with the support of provincial party senators from Corrientes and San Juan, as well as from the Integration and Development Movement [MID]. The sources admitted the "extreme" possibility that a tie might take place, that is, 23 "yes" votes against 23 "no" votes, which would require the Senate president to cast the decisive vote. However, it is also possible that the voting may result in a 23-to-22 vote, if another Neqeuen senator, Jorge Solana, does not recover from a thrombophlebitis which has caused him to be hospitalized in his province.

The UCR has 18 senators, the San Juan Bloc Party has 2, the Corrientes Liberal-Autonomous Pact has 2, and the MID has 1, while the Justicialist Party has 21 and the Neuquen Popular Movement has 2, from which it can be deducted that voting may be close.

FALKLANDS LEASING UNDER STUDY IN CONGRESS

PY060145 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0010 GMT 6 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Feb (NA) -- Federico Storani, deputy of the UCR and president of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, today confirmed that studies are being carried out on the possibility of leasing the Malvinas Islands to Great Britain after that country recognizes Argentina's sovereignty over those islands. Storani confirmed in this manner the recent statements made by UCR Senators Antonio Berhongaray and Adolfo Gass indicating that the alternative of establishing a lease or trust "is not new" and that this came about during the visits made by British legislators in 1984.

Storani mentioned the case of the British colony of Hong Kong by which China agreed to lease the territory to the United Kingdom until 1999 in exchange for the recognition of sovereignty. He said: "Leasing is a viable solution because it opens the possibility of recovering territory for the nation."

Storani recalled that the British legislators inquired about this matter during all the meetings they held with their Argentine counterparts. He added that "all the alternatives must be studied." He announced that with this purpose in mind a special committee to study the Malvinas issue will be created in the Foreign Relations Committee to consider "all the possible alternatives to come out of the current state of stagnation" in relation to the islands.

Storani indicated that the special committee will work on gathering proposals from experts on the Malvinas issue, in getting the testimony of people involved in relations with Great Britain, and even from journalists with expertise on this issue.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE ON OPENING PLO OFFICE

PY020155 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1705 GMT 1 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Feb (NA) -- A high-level Foreign Ministry source has ruled out "for the moment" the possibility of the government authorizing the opening of a PLO information office here. The source, consulted by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, has labeled as senseless, news reports saying that Foreign Minister Dante Caputo opposes the opening of the PLO office, contrary to the opinion of Foreign Ministry Secretary for International Relations Elsa Kelly and of Foreign Ministry Director for International Organizations Julio Barboza.

Regarding the PLO, the source recalled that Argentina recognizes it as "the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people" in international forums like the United Nations. However, the source said that the opening of a PLO office here "could affect the reorganization of our relations with the United States and Western Europe," since they consider the PLO as a "terrorist" organization.

Diplomatic circles believe that the Argentine Government will not analyze the issue officially until President Alfonsin returns from his planned trip to Israel, which should take place this year.

By a draft resolution, Peronist Deputy Antonio Paleari has requested the government, to grant the PLO office in Buenos Aires diplomatic status. [as received] Paleari says that it is not his purpose to judge the Middle East crisis but to give the PLO equal opportunities to report news about that strife-torn region.

POPE LEAVES FOR IQUITOS, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PY051700 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1605 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Lima, 5 Feb (TELAM-DPA) -- Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde today bade farewell to Pope John Paul II on the fifth and last day of his stay in Peru. His Holiness left Lima at 1130 local time (1530 GMT) on board a Peruvian Air Force DC-8 for Iquitos, capital of the Peruvian Amazon Department, where he will meet briefly with local communities before leaving for Trindad-Tobago. The farewell ceremony held at the air base for the pope, who arrived in Peru 5 days ago, followed strict protocol and was only attended by government and church officials, members of the Armed Forces, and several guests who were mainly relatives of officials.

PRESIDENT BELAUNDE QUESTIONS HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

PY051805 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Press conference held by President Fernando Belaunde with foreign and local journalists covering the visit of Pope John Paul II to Peru, in Lima on 2 February -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Some of the questions refer to accusations made by an organization that calls itself Amnesty International. Shielded by a reputation for impartiality, this organization makes charges against my government in connection with the terrorists who have been operating in the central part of the country, particularly in Ayacucho Department and some provinces.

Amnesty International questions or condemns what it believes are violations of human rights, without mentioning the reality of a criminal and insane process that began by making victims of modest people in an area in Ayacucho where latifundia do not exist and where the agrarian reform has been completed, in a department with no important agriculture but characterized by small community or private properties.

The first drama I experienced in my government was to have humble orphans crying on my shoulder and to hear the bloodcurdling accounts of crimes that have been internationally planned to sow discord in a peaceful and humble area. Against the great threat of the installation and consolidation of democracy in Latin America, a new technique began to be used: The leader are simply names; they no longer take part in the fighting. It is a terrorist movement which bombing power pylons that are costly to replace. We had to replace them at the cost of other things that we could have done. There were occasional clashes, raids, and murders of defenseless people. The terrorist leaders did not take part in the fighting but sent women and children to fight.

In view of these facts, the movement that calls itself Amnesty International acts very irresponsibly, to say the least, in passing judgment on the results of violence and the excesses that occurred, excesses which have been duly punished. But it is not fair to cast doubts on our country's institutions based on the errors of those who commit the crimes who are a minority compared with the majority who risk their lives to maintain public order. It is difficult defending not just a ruler, but a government system based on laws; it is more difficult than defending a dictator or tyrant. When Peru was under dictatorships, I did not hear any objections; I did not see dictatorships treated in the way a respectable democracy is being treated.

COPEI LEADER DENIES COALITION WITH GOVERNMENT

PA060242 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Text] Dr Gustavo Torres Briceno, member of the Social Christian Party, COPEI, national directorate, said that no [word indistinct] coalition with President Jaime Lusinchi's government has been proposed. He denied a report published by a Caracas newspaper.

[Begin recording] [Torres] COPEI has shown the need for a national consensus to solve the country's main problems. We understand that many of the problems confronted by the nation cannot be solved by either the government or the ruling party alone. We need a consensus that includes, not only national democratic unity in the country, but also political and social forces. We all should make our utmost effort to achieve this end. Let it be clearly understood that this type of understanding (?does not entail) either a coalition government or participation in the government.

On 4 December the Venezuelans entrusted to Democratic Action the government function and to COPEI the function of being the opposition. Both positions are [words indistinct]. Democracy would be greatly harmed if [words indistinct] the opposition is an essential factor for the system's operation. This does not mean that there aren't problems that can be excluded from debate and [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Does this mean that a [word indistinct] coalition has been completely dismissed?

[Torres] Completely. We will be in the opposition until 1989 when we will take over the government and Democratic Action will have to act as the opposition. [end recording]

ENERGY MINISTER VIEWS EFFECT OF NEW OIL PRICES

PA051856 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Report by Desiree Sanchez]

[Text] Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti has said that the reaction of the oil market [to the recent OPEC decisions] is positive and explained the effects on our country:

[Begin Hernandez Grisanti recording] We figure that the effects will not be too significant because light crude export constitutes less than 10 percent of the total volume of Venezuelan exports. Light crude will be the only oil affected by OPEC's price reduction decided on Wednesday. Therefore, more than 90 percent of our exports will not [words indistinct] their prices. As for some heavy and extra heavy crudes, we have a cooperation and information exchange system with Mexico, and before [words indistinct] will talks at the technical and political level with Mexican Energy and Mines Secretary Labastida. But the alternative seen at this time regarding the heavy and extra heavy crudes -- Mexico has heavy but not extra heavy -- is to maintain prices or eventually increase them according to the behavior of the market this month or more than a month [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The energy and mines minister also said that the international oil commission will meet tomorrow. This commission meets before and after each OPEC summit.

DE LA MADRID, BRAZIL'S NEVES HOLD TALKS

FL052042 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1950 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Feb (NOTIMEX) Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves have held their first round of talks on international policy, foreign debt, Central America, and oil.

Following the talks, which were held at Los Pinos presidential residence, the Mexican president and his wife Paloma Cordero gave a luncheon for the distinguished visitor and his wife, Risolets Guimaraes Tolentino Neves.

The future Brazilian president hosted a private dinner for De la Madrid at the Brazilian Embassy.

The Brazilian president-elect held a press conference today and will attend a dinner in his honor at the Foreign Relations Secretariat. Shortly thereafter, he will depart the country.

Neves Press Conference

FL060020 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2130 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves stressed today the importance his country gives to Mexico cooperation in foreign policy and Latin American integration matters. At a press conference, Neves, who today concludes his visit here, which began 5 days ago [as received], said Brazil morally and politically supports the Contadora Group as the only forum that supports, on a large scale, a negotiated solution in Central America. He said that in talks with President Miguel de la Madrid they discussed the problem of the foreign debt, Latin American integration, and disarmament. He said the New Delhi Document should be presented to the superpowers.

After pointing out that Brazil will give its full support to the upcoming meeting of foreign ministers and economy ministers in Santo Domingo, Neves said the life of the peoples of Latin America is marked by undevelopment.

Regarding the economic situation in Brazil, whose foreign debt amounts to about $100 billion, the Brazilian president-elect said that one of the main objectives of his government will be to control inflation because if not controlled, it will destroy us. He said it was memorable that Mexico has lowered its inflation rate from 90 percent in 1983 to 60 percent in 1984 and that it is trying to reduce the rate of 30 percent this year. It is necessary, he said, for creditors to grant longer payment terms -- 14 or 15 years -- for capital repayment, but as for interest rates, creditors are inflexible. In 1984, Brazil paid $14 million in interest alone on its debt.

On the fluctuations in the oil market, Neves said that despite the fact that Brazil produces about 500,000 barrels per day, it spends about $13 billion [time period not specified] for crude oil imports. This led the Brazilian Government to seek alternative energy sources, one of which has been alcohol, which has permitted a saving of 180,000 barrels per day. Currently, Brazil's oil imports are calculated at about $6,000 [as received, no time period specified], 50 percent less than in earlier years.

On his country's relations with the United States, he said only that there had been relations since Brazil's independence and that there is no problem.

He said Brazil has no reason not to continue having commercial and other types of relations with the Soviet Union.

Neves said his country is determined to see Chile return to democracy, which he called the only way for Latin American countries.

On whether or not his government, after 21 years of military rule, would punish those responsible for excesses committed during that period, Neves said that case is closed, finished and it is necessary to take care of the present.

He denied that he has any obligation to political groups or to his own party and said his government would represent those who elected him.

Neves, who met with three heads of state during his trip to Europe and the United States, will travel today to Buenos Aires, which is the last leg of his trip before returning to Brazil.

PEMEX ANNOUNCES LOWERING OF CRUDE OIL PRICE

FL051746 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1655 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 5 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico announced tonight [as received] that it will reduce the price per barrel of Isthmus-type crude by $1.25 and will not change the price of Maya-type crude.

The Secretariat of Energy, Mines, and State Industry and PEMEX announced that by order of President Miguel de la Madrid export prices per barrel in February would be: light crude (Isthmus), $27.75, and extra heavy Maya crude, $25.50.

It was also announced that Mexico would not compensate revenue losses derived from the lowering of price of Isthmus crude, with an increase in volume of exports, because excessive crude sales could bring about a large drop in prices, with its dangerous consequences.

This price adjustment will signify an annual reduction of foreign exchange revenue of some $300 million to Mexico, approximately 1.9 percent of PEMEX's foreign exchange revenue, and nearly 4 percent of the Bank of Mexico's international reserves, all of which can be managed by the national economy.

COSTA RICA

DEPUTY SECURITY MINISTER DENIES REPORT ON U.S. AID

PA060348 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Deputy Public Security Minister Johnny Campos Loaiza has described as incorrect a report released yesterday morning saying that the United States would grant Costa Rica military aid worth more than $150 million. He added that no specific amount has been determined for 1986, but it has been estimated that this military aid would be much lower for this year because it has only been $9 million during the past 2 years. In addition, any aid to be received during 1986 would be for the maintenance of equipment recently purchased. Campos said that part of the U.S. aid has been arriving here during the past few months, such as vehicles, communications equipment, and a helicopter that will begin operating soon. Another helicopter, two Cessna aircraft, and two patrol boats that were being repaired are expected to arrive here by the end of the month. Three additional vessels will also be sent to Costa Rica and three small ones will be bought to serve as coast guard vessels. Campos finally denied that the presence of the Costa Rican public security minister in the United States has anything to do with negotiations on military aid to the country.

EL SALVADOR

COL OCHOA DISCUSSES ARMY GAINS IN CHALATENANGO

PA052311 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 4 Feb 85 p 1

[Excerpt] Colonel Sigifrido Ochoa Perez, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade headquartered in El Paraiso, Chalatenango, has reported that the People's Liberation Forces' station Radio Farabundo Marti has ceased to broadcast from Chalatenango, and that the Armed Forces have recovered most of the towns in the western part of the department.

Yesterday, the military officer toured the towns formerly considered to be areas of conflict to get information on the progress of the vaccination campaign. He invited newman Jorge Armando Contreras to later visit other municipalities to confirm the presence of the Armed Forces in what was formerly called "territories under guerrilla control." Ochoa Perez traveled to Concepcion Quezaltepeque, Comalapa, and he had earlier visited La Laguna and other towns such as Tejutla, La Palma, El Poy, and San Ignacio. In La Palma, Col Ochoa said: "Guerrilla commanders used to give press conferences, but they can no longer do this."

Col Ochoa, present departmental commander in Chalatenango and commander of the 4th Brigade, said that in the upcoming elections, votes will be cast in 28 of the 33 municipalities in Chalatenango. In previous elections, he said, votes were cast only in 21 or 22 municipalities. Ochoa said: The part of the department not yet under our control is the eastern part where "the guerrillas remain such as in Arcatao, San Jose Las Flores, Nombre de Jesus, San Antonio de la Cruz, and Las Vueltas, which have been abandoned by the inhabitants."

He said that for him the "pockets" or areas of conflict still are a problem because it is not possible to enter them because of the treaties. Those zones are guerrilla redoubts, he explained. He denied that he is seeking support to bomb towns, as the guerrillas have said. He said: This is done only in very restricted areas because since I took over the brigade 5 months ago, we have established an efficient intelligence network that allows us to select our objectives effectively."

Ochoa said that the people are also being organized for self-defense, but this policy, as confirmed in the places visited and in talks with the inhabitants, has not been well received. In La Palma, for example, many complained that youths are forced to receive training and be armed to defend the population and those who do not do so are accused of being rebel collaborators. He said: "This is causing an exodus of students, and the Army should organize civil defense with those persons who are willing to participate."

COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION BEGINS IN EL PAISNAL

PA060250 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] The Salvadoran Army began a counterinsurgency operation today in the rural area of El Paisnal involving some 1,000 troops and Air Force and artillery support, military sources have reported. According to area residents, large contingents of guerrillas have been moving through the area carrying heavy weapons and food brought from Chalatenango. So far, and after the first clashes took place this morning, no casualty figures have been released for either side, although fighting has reportedly been particularly fierce in the area of Las Ventanas.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT DENIES BRITISH TROOPS PRESENT IN PETEN

PA060236 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] The government has denied a newspaper report about the presence of British troops in Peten Department. The denial was made by the Army's spokesman, who said that the government controls the nation's territory. The spokesman did not even offer to investigate the newspaper's report obtained from some peasants from the village of Santa Cruz in San Luis municipality. The peasants from Santa Cruz delivered a note to the commander of the local military brigade, requesting that he begin an investigation, but instead the government hastily denied the report without even trying to find out the truth.

Mejia Comments

PA051225 Guatemala City El GRAFICO in Spanish 3 Feb 85 p 4

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Feb -- Guatemalan President General Oscar Mejia Victores has confirmed that on 21 February he will leave for Bogota, Colombia, on a 3-day visit. Mejia Victores said that his visit will reciprocate Colombian President Belisario Betancur's visit to Guatemala last 3 December.

From Colombia, Gen Mejia will travel to Montevideo, Uruguay, on 23 February to attend President Julio Sanguinetti's inaugural ceremony on 6 March.

In replying to journalists regarding reports about an alleged British military base in San Luis Peten, Gen Mejia flatly denied this. He said that only bases and military zones in Guatemala are those of the Guatemalan Army.

Understanding for Guatemala

Mejia Victores also referred to the visit of U.S. investors of the DOCA group [not further identified] who cooperate with the U.S. Department of Defense on security matters.

Gen Mejia Victores said that the only thing he asks from U.S. businessmen is understanding toward our country. We do not want any gifts, he added, because gifts are no good. We only want them to buy our products, paying a just price for them.

BANANA COMPANY TO LEAVE IF REQUEST NOT GRANTED

PA060220 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] The Guatemalan Banana Development Company, Ltd, Bandegua, with 5,500 workers and sales abroad of approximately $75 million annually, will be leaving the country on 25 February 1985, "Here's the World" newscast has learned. In addition to the loss of the company produce in sales abroad and the workers' loss of their jobs, this decision will also affect the state railroad company, which is already having financial problems.

In a telephone conversation, Antonio Eleazar Ocana, Bandegua's personnel and labor relations director, told "Here's the World" newscast of Bandegua's, a Del Monte Company subsidiary, decision:

[Begin recording] [Ocana] Yes, unfortunately that is what is going to happen if the Bank of Guatemala does not change its attitude toward Bandegua. The bank's argument of not authorizing foreign currency for Bandegua's purchases abroad is unfounded.

[Reporter] Then, you are confirming to "Here's the World" newscast that Bandegua will cease operations if the government does not approve the funds it is asking for in foreign currency?

[Ocana] That is exactly the situation. We only have enough supplies for 25 or 30 more days. If we do not receive those funds to buy supplies from abroad, Bandegua will be forced to end its operations in Guatemala.

[Reporter] How many workers will be out of a job if Bandegua leaves?

[Ocana] Approximately 5,500.

[Reporter] Has Bandegua submitted this request to the head of state?

[Ocana] We are expecting Sam Gordon, Del Monte Company president, who will be accompanied by Senator Richard Stone, former roving ambassador for Central America, on Friday. They will meet with Mejia Victores to discuss the situation. The company is not trying to blackmail or threaten the government, but Bandegua needs the money to buy supplies from abroad to continue operating.

[Reporter] How much money do you need to keep operating?

[Ocana] A total of $30 million will be more than enough to buy what we need to keep the banana industry operating. We need cardboard to make the boxes and the materials for the plastic bags to ship the bananas. We also need to buy insecticides, fungicides, and other things necessary for a banana plantation. We are not asking for money that we cannot pay back; take into account that Bandegua receives approximately $75 million from sales abroad.

[Reporter] Do you have anywhere else to go in the United States or here in Guatemala to solve this situation?

[Ocana] Unfortunately we do not. Our debts in the United States are large and credit has been suspended.

[Reporter] How much do you owe abroad?

[Ocana] Approximately $40 million, which we have used to buy everything we need, but now we are running out of supplies.

[Reporter] You said that on Friday Bandegua's president and Senator Richard Stone will meet with Mejia Victores?

[Ocana] That is right. They will hold a meeting Friday afternoon. Sam Gordon is the Del Monte Company's president.

[Reporter] What has been the workers' attitude regarding the current situation?

[Ocana] The workers understand the company's situation. They realize that if the company leaves, they will be affected. There are some 20,000 workers who indirectly do business with Bandegua who will also be affected. I would say that Izabal Department depends on Bandegua's operations a great deal. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

RAMIREZ VISITS SPAIN, MEETS WITH GONZALEZ

For Madrid coverage of the visit to Spain by Vice President Sergio Ramirez and his meeting with Spanish leaders including Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, see the Spain section of the 6 February Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

GOVERNMENT WILLING TO TALK WITH COSTA RICA

PA052248 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] At the United Nations today Nicaragua reiterated its total willingness to discuss with Costa Rica its differences with that country's government within the framework of the Contadora Group. In a letter addressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Ambassador Julio Icaza Gallard responded to a message sent to the United Nations by Costa Rica by stating that the revolutionary government is willing to discuss, within the framework of the supervision and prevention commission created at the suggestion of the Contadora Group, all those matters related to the right to asylum that the two governments may wish to discuss. Relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica experienced a serious setback following a diplomatic incident that occurred late in December at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua.

ORTEGA: DANGER OF U.S. INVASION STILL EXISTS

PA051514 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Here is a report from New York City: The latest measures adopted by the United States against Nicaragua indicate that the Reagan administration has not decided in favor of a political solution and has not discarded a military solution. This statement was made by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega during an interview granted to THE NEW YORK TIMES. In a front page report, the U.S. newspaper quotes President Ortega as saying that Nicaragua still finds itself forced to believe that there is still the danger of a U.S. military invasion to overthrow his government and that he will have to keep the country's defenses ready. Ortega said during the interview that he is concerned with the Reagan administration's campaign to secure a renewal of financing for the counterrevolutionary forces that attack Nicaragua.

ERNESTO CARDENAL ON DECISION TO REMAIN IN POST

PA051710 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Culture Minister Father Ernesto Cardenal said this afternoon that he will continue serving the people and that to abandon the people at this moment when Nicaragua is facing aggression, to leave his post in the cabinet, would be an act of treason against the Nicaraguan people. The culture minister said that faced with the Vatican's alternative of either exercising his priestly duties or betraying the people, he, as a faithful servant of the people of Nicaragua, decided never to betray or abandon his people.

[Begin recording] St Thomas Aquinas, a great church theologian, once said that there are some matters on which the people may act on the basis of their own criterion, even if this goes against a prohibition imposed by the pope. Any condemnation or prohibition of this can be seen as a mistake and is invalid. This was said by St Thomas Aquinas.

He also said that it is sometimes necessary to oppose a mandate from the pope, even at the risk of being excommunicated. St Thomas Aquinas believed that the supreme authorities for Christians are their conscience and the gospel. I abide by this. I accept this. I respect the pope's authority but I affirm what Fernando, my brother, has already firmly told him: This situation is unjust and we are the victims of an injustice. We are being punished for serving the people.

Priesthood is forever, I will continue being a priest. Priesthood is for eternity, not only until death, but beyond death, for eternity.

Now that I am being deprived of the privileges of priesthood, I will voluntarily make the sacrifices and fulfill the obligations that priesthood implies, including celibacy. No one can take this away from me. I will continue exercising my priestly duties through my service to the people.

Priesthood means service and in this revolution what we are doing is performing a service. We were prohibited from accepting these posts because they are civil posts, but in this revolution we don't see these posts as posts of civil power: we see them as posts to serve the people and I will continue serving the people.

As I said before, I am not going to pass judgment, but I declare that we are the victims of an injustice. However, we respect the pope's authority. I state my fidelity to the church. I declare that I will maintain my vow of unity with God. My unity with God will represent a greater union of God with my people, with whom I am also united. Through this unity, God will defend my people, who are enduring aggression.

My greatest regret as a Catholic is that His Holiness remains silent in the face of the aggression being endured by our people and that his political position coincides with that of Reagan. [end recording]

OBANDO Y BRAVO COMMENTS ON MEETING WITH POPE

PA051510 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Managua's Archbishop Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo returned to the country yesterday after being away for more than 1 month and meeting briefly with the pope during his tour of Venezuela. The Nicaraguan pastor arrived last night on a Central American Air Transport flight from Miami. Msgr Bosco Vegas Robelo, auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese, met him at the airport.

Msgr Obando y Bravo, the highest-ranking clergyman in Nicaragua, made brief and guarded statements to the press last night, saying that he had been invited by Maracaibo's Archbishop Msgr Domingo Roa Perez to participate in Venezuela's reception for the pope. During his stay in that oil-producing city, the archbishop said he met with the holy father, who kindly offered to converse with him.

Regarding the content of the conversation, which he said was very general and brief, he said: "The pope was very interested in the Nicaraguan church." Msgr Obando y Bravo said that Pope John Paul II, who "ministers to his American flock by planting the seed of peace," showed great interest in the dialogue between the Nicaraguan church and the Sandinist state.

Asked about the embrace he received from the pope at the open-air mass in Maracaibo while the Venezuelan people applauded, Msgr Obando y Bravo said it was an expression of encouragement, which His Holiness knows how to give to his bishops. On this occasion the pope whispered something in Msgr Obando's ear.

On possible papal mediation to ease the Central American conflicts between atheist and believing governments, the archbishop said that he knows nothing about it. He did say, however, that the pope is not opposed to the dialogue between the Nicaraguan church commission and the Sandinist government, the contents of which are thus far unknown to the Nicaraguan people.

On the new bishops' synod recently announced by the pope, Msgr Obando y Bravo said it is based on seeking a change in man, one of reconciliation and renewal of faith.

CABRALES REORGANIZES DOMESTIC TRADE MINISTRY

PA060256 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Feb 85 p 5

[Text] The Domestic Trade Ministry (Micoin) has been reorganized, and will no longer have four deputy ministers. The former Micoin deputy ministers were Bernardino Turcios, Pablo Pichardo, Luis Miranda, and Julio Lopez. The later, who was also director of the Nicaraguan Basic Food Enterprise (Enabas) was recently replaced by Guillermo Bendana.

Micoin has announced that Bendana is the new director of Enabas, but will not have the rank of deputy minister. Francisco Sanchez will be Micoin's only deputy minister. According to reports, Domestic Trade Minister Commander Ramon Cabrales has reorganized his ministry to reduce bureaucracy and to give more dynamism to the institution's activities. In addition, Cesar Anduray was appointed new director of Micoin's Commerical License Office.

ARCE ANNOUNCES SALARY HIKE FOR NON-FARM WORKERS

PA041858 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Excerpts] During an event to mark the sixth anniversary of foundation of the National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano announced that non-farm production workers will receive a 40-percent salary increase effective 1 February. Arce, who is also coordinator of Political Commission of the FSLN National Directorate, said the increase is aimed at reassessing [revalorizar] production work.

[Begin recording] We have submitted a bill to the National Constituent Assembly rasing the minimum wage of non-farm production workers from the basic [word indistinct] 1,700 cordovas to 2,500 cordovas, which will permit the salaries of all production workers to be increased.

We do not think this will solve the problem. It will barely make up for the production workers' loss in purchasing power in the face of the activities of the merchants. Any step we take to restore order in our situation and guarantee resources for defense and minimum resources indispensable to the entire population will be accompanied by a respective adjustment in the income of production workers. We will be adopting many measures indeed. [end recording]

After broadly analyzing the imperialist aggression against us by the U.S. Government, Commander Arce emphasized that the people will have to bolster their defense capability to attain military superiority in 1985, because the sooner we end the war the lower will be the loss of lives and damage to the economy.

[Begin recording] We have said that the first thing we will do during 1985 will be to bolster, up to whatever levels necessary, the Nicaraguan people's military defense capability. We think that the best way to stop the destruction of our economy and the murder of our peasants and city people who have come here to work and improve conditions in the countryside and the only way to end the anguish among Nicaraguan families caused by the war would be to build up our Armed Forces to such an extent they can win the war and thus end it. [applause]

The imperialists continue seeking funds to finance this criminal war and have forced several countries to give military and economic assistance to the mercenary forces. If we wish to reduce the number of casualties suffered by our patriotic fighters we will have to multiply our military forces to enable them, after they attain a clear military superiority, to deal mortal, strategic blows to the counterrevolutionary forces. [applause]

In other words, we cannot confront the 10,000 or 12,000 mercenaries which the Somozists have introduced into Honduran territory with 10,000 or 12,000 fighters. If we want to put an end to this situation quickly, we must pit 50,000 or 100,000 armed patriots against those 10,000 mercenaries. [applause] For this reason, we have decided to multiply our calls to our youths to join the Patriotic Military Service and to our people to join reserve infantry battaltions and the Sandinist People's Militias. [end recording]

PSN'S SANCHEZ VIEWS ARCE'S STATEMENTS ON DEMOCRACY

PA051406 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Text] Luis Sanchez Sancho, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, disagrees with the statements made by the coordinator of the FSLN Political Commission to ACAN-EFE that the democratic process should be stopped until U.S. aggression against Nicaragua ceases. Here is Sanchez' statement:

[Begin recording] We have carefully studied Commander Bayardo Arce's statements to an international news agency because we believe that the FSLN's concept and the importance that that organization attaches to the process of democratic institutionalization of the Nicaraguan revolution are included in these statements.

In truth, we believe that these statements conceal an FSLN plan to establish an authoritarian regime, a sort of revolutionary dictatorship with a single political party. In practice, however, and during the evolution of political events, it has been demonstrated that this plan for a single political party is not feasible and that this is not the true road to the stabilization and strengthening of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Later, Commander Arce contradicted himself when he said that the revolutionary and socialist process in this country, which must be genuinely Nicaraguan, will profit from the Soviet, Cuban, Swedish, and Spanish experiences. We think that this means that the way to the revolutionary development and the building of a socialist society in our country must inevitably pass through the establishment and [words indistinct] of genuine democratic forms of people's participation. We think that what is missing is the consideration, that the U.S. imperialist aggression affects all sectors of our country's social and political life. While we are realistically confronting the economic crisis, we also have to consider mechanisms for the people's democratic participation in defense tasks. I believe that these tasks should not be excluded, but must be included in an effort to carry the revolutionary process forward [end recording]

PRT SEEKS CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN DIALOGUE

PA052012 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Feb 85 p 5

[Text] Members of the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) met with members of the Social Christian Party and other parties at the Communist Party headquarters to discuss the basic document for reinitiating the national dialogue.

PRT Secretary General Bonifacio Miranda, said that the PRT sent a letter to President Daniel Ortega and Commander Carlos Nunez, president of the National Assembly, in which they made observations on the basic document. The leader said that in the party's opinion, the basic document is a draft that allows the parties to go forward with the discussions. The PRT made basic criticisms of U.S. aggression, which is not explained very well in the document.

The PRT is willing to participate in the national dialogue, and has asked Sandinist leaders to allow the PRT and the Central American Unionist Party (PUCA) to maintain their positions as permanent observers with a right to speak during the dialogue.

According to Miranda, the request was made because the government prevented the PRT and the PUCA from participating in the presidential election, which was verified on 4 January. "This could be extended to other political parties that did not participate in the past elections but which are members of the Constituent Assembly," the politician said.

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTS ON EPS 15-31 JAN ACTIONS

PA021954 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 85

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has reported that between 15 and 31 January the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] annihilated 95 counterrevolutionaries and wounded 32 others in 42 clashes reported in various areas of northern Nicaragua. The official report also states that during attacks on rural areas, ambushes, and actions against economic targets in various areas of the country the counterrevolutionary beasts murdered 59 civilians, wounded 28 others, and kidnapped 53 Nicaraguans, whose whereabouts are unknown, In the armed actions against the Somozist counterrevolutionaries, the Farabundo Marti and Santos Lopez Battalions for Unconventional Warfare were the most distinguished. The Defense Ministry report warns that during this period there was a noticeable increase in the number of counterrevolutionary attacks against civilian residents. It adds that each time the attackers used more atrocious methods when they indiscriminately murdered men, women, children, and old people. The ministry also reported that many M-14 and Chinese-made AK rifles were recovered from the mercenaries. Backpacks, ammunition, and other war materiel were also recovered.

ANTI-SANDINIST GROUPS SEEKING UNITED FRONT

PA051246 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1217 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Text] Miami, Florida, 4 Feb (EFE) -- Anti-Sandinist political and guerrilla movements are making another effort to unite and present a single front to the United States, spokesman for these groups have said. This alleged unity, which has been sought in the past, seeks to reduce the U.S. Congress opposition to giving them support and approving the $14 million in convert aid frozen since 1984.

The anti-Sandinist leaders are also working on a political document that could be a declaration of principles, Fernando Chamorro, Nicaragua Democratic Force (FDN) representative, told EFE. Chamorro said that this document will be published sometime this week, possibly on Wednesday, 6 February, in Costa Rica.

The FDN leader admitted that talks are taking place to try to unite all of the forces fighting the Sandinist government. He also said this is a matter which requires more thought.

Arturo Cruz, who launched his candidacy for the presidency in November's elections and later withdrew, and the FDN and the Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas [Misura] movement will sign the political document.

Eden Pastora, leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), which operates from Costa Rican territory, said last Sunday that he is willing to hold "preliminary talks to establish the conditions" for a possible common front.

In a interview with a Hispanic television network in the United States, Pastora, also known as Commander Cero, said that he is in favor of these talks and suggested they be held in Nicaraguan territory liberated by his troops.

The main anti-Sandinist leaders were to meet this weekend in Miami to participate in the freedom and democracy forum, organized by the Inter-American Security Council, a radically anticommunist U.S. conservative group. In the end, only two leaders attended the meetings: Fernando Chamorro, leader of a group headed by the FDN, and Steadman Fagoth of the Misura group.

Arturo, Cruz, Alfonso Robelo, who last year signed an agreement with the FDN, and Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, former director of the newspaper LA PRENSA of Managua, were supposed to have attended the meeting.

According to FDN sources, Arturo Cruz' decision to support the political document is a very important step in obtaining military aid from the CIA, because Cruz has great prestige with U.S. congressmen.

In statements published today by THE WASHINGTON POST, Cruz said he will sign a declaration of principles, but that he has no intention of creating an organic alliance with the other groups.

Pastora said he believes that Cruz has come to the decision that there is no alternative to the armed struggle. In January, Cruz urgently requested the aid to the rebels in order to continue the war against the Managua regime.

So far the major obstacle to the unity of the two most important anti-Sandinist guerrilla organizations has been Eden Pastora's accusations that the group led by Adolfo Calero are Somozists.

CDN, PSC Leaders Comment

PA011424 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Feb 85

[Text] Andres Zuniga, acting president of the right-wing Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board, CDN, today argued that Arturo Cruz' admittance to the [words indistinct] exiled Nicaraguans, based on reports published by ANN, is an entirely personal matter.

The U.S. press recently reported that the Reagan administration is planning to form a political-military front with leaders from all the counterrevolutionary organizations: the self-styled Democratic Nicaraguan Force, FDN, and the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, as well as Arturo Cruz, of the CDN.

Regarding this situation, Zuniga, who is also one of the six Higher Council of the Private Enterprise presidents, denied that they have any relations with those armed groups. He explained that the creation of this front is a matter that only concerns those who will take part in it.

Meanwhile, Social Christian Party President Agustin Jarquin said he has no information regarding Arturo Cruz' initiation into the political-military front of Nicaraguans counterrevolutionaries abroad. Nevertheless, he admitted that there are rumors about the creation of this front.

ARDE REPORTS ON 'CUBAN KILLERS' IN CHINANDEGA

PA060027 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2230 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Here is a report from our internal resistance in Chinandega, through our couriers who operate throughout the country:

The ARDE internal resistance in Chinandega reports that Cuban mercenaries Francisco Londiro and Adolfo Rodriguez terrorize the streets of Chinandega by driving at high speed in a plateless yellow Toyota jeep.

These Castroite killers maintain their own graveyard in this city and have murdered Nicaraguan patriots whose names we hereby mention: Rodolfo Mendez, Ivan Tenorio, Etanislao Mendoza, Juan Gonzalez, and Orlando Henriquez. All four were El Viejo residents. The report adds that these criminals have two clandestine prisons, one at El Viejo and another on the Chinandega-Corinto road, near Paso Caballo. In these prisons, the Cuban killers torture our Nicaraguan brothers who have fallen into their hands. The Cubans have even detained two Nicaraguan peasant mothers. They are: Eulalia Mendoza and Albertina Cajina.

In future broadcasts, we will make more denunciations by our internal resistance that operates throughout the country.

ADOLFO CHAMORRO APPEALS FOR AID IN COSTA RICA

PA052142 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2230 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Report on statement by Adolfo Chamorro, deputy commander of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, during a press conference held in San Jose; date not given]

[Excerpt] Deputy Commander Adolfo Chamorro stressed the difficulties ARDE's heroic fighters are experiencing as they strive, rifle in hand, to destroy Managua's anti-Sandinist government. Deputy Commander Adolfo Chamorro said: We are fighting to create democracy in our fatherland and for the security of our Central American brother nations. Then he added:

[Begin recording] We are making an earnest appeal to you, honest Costa Rican newsmen, and to the Costa Rican people. We do not have a short-term solution in order to give an immediate answer to those fighters striving to liberate Nicaragua. We need medicine, bread, food. This is the only war where there are no wounded, because they all die. We need fuel to patrol the San Juan River. We share our patrolling duties with the Costa Rican Government. We appeal to the international community. We have already formed committees abroad and they are sending immediate help. Last week, we managed to survive thanks to the aid provided by the Cuban community in Miami. That is how we are still keeping the struggle in the south of Nicaragua going. The situation is terrible. Only 2,500 out of 7,000 men, are fighting because the rest are weak and cannot fight. We have not received any substantial aid from any government in 10 months, and we have not even received a penny in 10 months. We have sold all of our personal belongings, including the earrings which belong to the fighters' wives. For that reason, we urge the Costa Rican people to help us, because the Nicaraguan problem does not only concern the Nicaraguan people. This is a regional defense problem. This is a Costa Rican problem. This is a problem for all democrats involved in this struggle. [end recording]

1,500 YOUTHS FLEE BLUEFIELDS TO AVOID DRAFT

PA032133 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2230 GMT 2 Feb 85

[Text] Attention, people of Nicaragua. Pay close attention, people of Nicaragua. The fighting units of ARDE armed forces have reported that 1,500 youths have fled Bluefields under dire conditions to avoid the mandatory military service. This represents a massive repudiation of the warlike policy of the traitors in Managua. These 1,500 youths, who chose to seek freedom through other means, must be an example for all Nicaraguan youths who are being used indiscriminately to defend a system they do not agree with. The ARDE armed forces composed of peasants, workers, and youths are providing medical care to the 1,500 youths even though they lack the necessary supplies to meet their own needs. We condemn our nation's enslaving system. This exodus reflects what is happening to our youths across the nation. Although our struggle is difficult, we pledge to fight the tyrants with rifles in hand. We cannot continue letting our people be murdered.

ARDE TERMS AMNESTY OFFER 'PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN'

PA042020 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2230 GMT 3 Feb 85

[Text] The false amnesty that was approved and offered by the Managua communists is nothing more than a publicity campaign. In fact, the so-called amnesty was repudiated and rejected by all of us who are fighting Marxist-Leninist totalitarians who are pursuing and repressing our people today. In view of the failure of their false attempt to offer amnesty, the traitors of the Nicaraguan revolution have mounted an operation in Central America, Latin America, and the Caribbean. They have been sending commissions with thousands of dollars to recruit and buy Nicaraguans to make the international press believe that they are indeed taking advantage of the so-called amnesty. They are doing this to avoid a fiasco similar to the one experienced by the communists in 1983 when our brother Indians paid attention to their calls. The workers affiliated with the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, denounce this maneuver by the Managua communists and make an (?ardent) call to the people, the Nicaraguan workers, and the democratic peoples and governments of the world not to be deceived while acting in good faith.

TRADE UNION NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD

Roberto Veiga Address

FL050022 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Text] Roberto Veiga has stressed the importance of working to make 1985 the year of the greatest economic results in the history of the revolution. At the opening of the 50th meeting of the General Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] National Committee meeting in Havana, Veiga, who is secretary general of the CTC, noted the importance of reflecting deeply in order to discover the deficiencies affecting us and ways of eradicating them.

He remarked on the importance of the enlightening reports to be presented and said efforts must be directed at guaranteeing the country's development. Veiga said that economic policy is not made on the spur of the moment and that planning is a compass that will serve as an unfailing guide for our work.

Elsewhere in his speech, he noted the progress of the discussion of annual plan quota figures by the workers. He said that for the first time in years it had been possible to begin studying the figures in January all the way down to the retail store level or a similar level.

He stressed the importance of discussing annual plans at the grass-roots level and said that is where this battle will be won or lost because that is where the workers are. He pointed out that in the area of services and budgeted activity, there is sluggishess in the breaking down of the plan and he specified that this is not being done efficiently at levels where it is desirable and necessary.

Veiga said the completion of this year's sugar production plan and the preparatory work for the next growing season are vital to our economy. He called for the use of all our forces to strengthen efforts being made in major industries and to achieve an increase in the saving of fuel and lubricants. He expressed the need to decrease losses in the sugar harvest and in related industries and exhorted all provinces to try to achieve millionaire status in the mechanized harvest and to increase the productivity of harvesting equipment. He emphasized the importance of success in tasks related to cultivation of the sugar-growing areas following the harvest.

He said the trade unions and workers must make maximum efforts to complete their quotas with the resources that have been assigned to them and to produce the best possible quality. He said this year's technical-economic plan puts workers under great pressure with its restrictions of assigned resources, making necessary the optimum and rational use of all material, human, and financial resources available. The CTC secretary general said that despite the difficult goals, the plan can be fulfilled perfectly.

Veiga noted the response of the workers in discussions about planned output goals and emphasized that the workers' movement is aware that if we reduce losses, simplify designs, are more imaginative, and improve control and effort, much can be achieved. He said we should make maximum effort in the saving of fuel and energy in order to fulfill our quota and, if possible, increase the quantity of fuel available for re-export, which is one of the ways to achieve growth in the economy. He said this does not mean saving when it deals with levels of activity and areas that might affect the people. He said what is essential is to eliminate the wasting of resources.

He said it is necessary to fight thoughtless and bureaucratic measures that go against the economic strategy planned by Fidel. He said we must avoid at all costs being immobilized by our efforts against waste. He stressed that the plan approved by the CTC National Council should combat waste, inefficiency, lack of effort, and irresponsibility.

Veiga said that in an effort to eliminate the negative effects on worker discipline of the general practice of taking a snack break in work centers, it has been decided to study the issue in our administrative sectors. He added that the objective is to seek, with the participation of our workers, solutions that besides being wise, are also as uniform as possible. He said studies had not been concluded yet on what measures to adopt. No one anywhere is authorized to use his own initiative to make any decision or ruling that changes the existing rules on snack breaks.

The CTC National Council meeting will conclude tomorrow with the approval by the assembly of the work plan in response to statements by Fidel on the people's economic war.

Irma Sanchez Speaks

FL051856 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] The 50th meeting of the CTC National Committee will end this afternoon in Havana.

Irma Sanchez, minister president of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, gave a special speech in which she spoke on important economic matters. She said the fight for the appropriate use of inventories and their decrease until reaching standard levels must be transformed into everyone's battle. Sanchez added that this was an important part of the people's economic war which Fidel recently outlined.

[Begin Sanchez recording] We are sure that we can count on that enormous force which the workers from various sectors and economic branches represent as well as the support and cooperation of their labor unions. We call on you to continue this battle to increase the country's economic efficiency. [end recording]

The CTC and its unions' debates on their work plans is in response to the economic strategy outlined by Fidel in his recent speeches, and will continue this afternoon presided by Roberto Veiga, CTC secretary general and Politburo member.

Work Plan Approved

FL060201 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 85

[Text] The 50th meeting of the CTC National Committee meeting concluded this afternoon with the approval of the work plan for the CTC and its various trade unions, support for the economic strategy announced by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, and an introductory report read by Roberto Veiga, alternate member of the Politburo and CTC secretary general. The meeting has been going on since yesterday in the Lazaro Pena Theater.

Making the concluding speech, Veiga noted the need to work harder and better and to increase discipline and effort among workers to achieve the best possible results in production and services. He said:

[Begin Veiga recording] We are going to be demanding without becoming extremists in the application of the policy that we have agreed fully to support at this meeting. We must work so that in every work place, the opinions of the workers and their unions are taken very much into account. [end recording]

GEN CASAS PRESIDES AT FAR MODERNIZATION FORUM

FL311438 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 31 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The FAR Technical School has hosted the 10th conference on modernization and rationalization and the second exposition on soldier's course materials. The meeting was presided by Division General Julio Casas, Central Committee member and alternate FAR minister, at which he summarized the anti-aircraft forces work in 1984.

The report underscores that the FAR's innovators and rationalizers movement constitutes a suitable way of incorporating its officers' and civilian workers' initiatives in conserving resources and increasing combat ability and preparedness.

SPORTS OFFICIAL DENIED DOMINICAN REPUBLIC VISA

FL021936 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1514 GMT 2 Feb 85

[Text] Osvaldo Matias Flores, chairman of the Pan American Baseball Confederation, said today that the Dominican Republic's denial of a visa for him to travel to Santo Domingo was cause for concern. The Cuban sports leader, who is also vice president of the International Baseball Association, was to have attended a meeting of the Central American and Caribbean Baseball Federation for the approval of rules, at which steps were to have been taken to organize the first regional championship in Nicaragua in July.

Matias Flores said he was in Panama from 23 to 28 January and, despite all his requests, the Dominican Government did not issue him a visa, although he had requested it early enough.

He said: The chain of events of the early 1960's, which prevented Cuba from participating in international competition could be repeated. During the 1960's the Cuban Olympic Committee was suspended on several occasions, its relations with many countries were cut off, and its delegation had to travel by ship but disembark away from the port for the inter-American championship in Puerto Rico.

After Cuba did not attend the Los Angeles Olympics events occurred that were reminiscent of the political measures in the 1960's. Among them are the withdrawal from Havana of the scheduled Pan-American Sports Organization Congress meeting, the failure to honor the agreement to allow Cuba to host the next continental games if Ecuador does not organize them, and a series of other decisions that undoubtedly resulted from political maneuverings.

Matias Flores said this situation had already been reported to Bob Smith, president of the International Baseball Association.

'OUR AMERICA' REVIEWS SALVADORAN EVENTS

PA011947 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 31 Jan 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Each day the Salvadoran regime gets more bogged down by its internal contradictions and the war of extermination that it is waging against the people. President Jose Napoleon Duarte has been unable to keep his political adversaries in check, particularly those of the extreme right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance, who challenge his administration and maintain that the head of state is incompetent and unfit to govern. At times the situation has become extremely tense because supporters of both political sectors have exchanged warnings that range from simple legal disputes in parliament to threats against each others' lives.

Tension has not lessened even after 1 full year of contradictions. This has led many to believe that a coup will eventually occur placing at the top of the government representatives of the so-called hard line headed by former Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, who has been closely linked to the death squads.

However, D'Aubusisson does not enjoy the support of the U.S. Government, without which it is improbable that traditional Salvadoran political sectors will make a move. Nonetheless, each day more and more Army officers are blaming the president for the numerous defeats the Armed Forces has sustained in the war against subversion.

These pressures have not escaped the attention of the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, which thus far has remained conspicuously silent regarding the unending frays that are eating away at the Salvadoran Government apparatus. Some observers have hinted that new military defeats could shift U.S. opinion about Duarte and recalled that the main purpose in giving substantial military assistance to the Salvadoran regime is to annihilate the guerrilla forces of the FMLN. Duarte does not deny this. That is why so many counterinsurgency operations have been ordered and launched since the beginning of the year. Duarte is aware that his continuation as head of the government is to a great extent dependent on the success of his military efforts. During the first 28 days of January the Salvadoran Armed Forces undertook 10 large-scale counterinsurgency operations, particularly in the country's northeastern areas, where the FMLN maintains its principal strongholds. A total of 13,000 troops took part in those counterinsurgency campaigns, including special battalions supported by armored vehicles, heavy artillery, and military aircraft. In spite of this, the guerrillas' counterattack forced the Army to retreat and to call in reinforcements to several rural places in 8 of the 14 departments of El Salvador. Government troops sustained 226 casualties during that time and lost large amounts of military equipment and weapons.

At the same time the rebels continued to engage in their campaign to sabotage the regime's war economy, which included attacks against farms owned by families of the oligarchy, government agricultural development projects, and targets of the national power network. Guerrillas also staged military actions that virtually paralyzed traffic along the country's main highways and roads, causing great losses to the Salvadoran economy.

President Duarte's military and economic policies have evidently failed. But so have those of his predecessors and so will those of any administration that attempts to govern the country behind the backs of the people and to coexist amid open foreign intervention. Ultimately Duarte is not the main culprit in all this. The culprit is the turncoat bourgeoisie and U.S. imperialism, which have closed all doors to a negotiated solution to the crisis and who continue to commit genocide among the workers and peasants of El Salvador.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SAID TO 'SURRENDER' TO IMF

PA022248 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 1 Feb 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] At the beginning of this week, just as 9 months ago, the smoke from tear gas made unbreathable the air in the Dominican Republic's capital. Shots were fired and men in uniform took to the streets to repress hundreds of demonstrators who for 1 week have protested against the indiscriminate increases in the prices of basic products.

Again, the cause of the common deep discontent was repeated: The Dominican Government signed an agreement with the IMF. That international organization's demands forced President Salvador Jorge Blanco to adopt unpopular measures such as increasing the prices of important foodstuffs including rice, bread, eggs, flour, sugar, and powedered milk by almost 60 percent. The signing of an agreement between Jorge's government and the IMF was what led to worker and student demonstrations in April 1984. The workers and students took to the streets of Santo Domingo and 20 other cities in the country's interior after the signing of a decree that increased the cost of staples by 50 percent. The events at that time could not have been more painful and tragic. The repression of the demonstrators resulted in the death of 50 persons and injuries to 200.

The IMF grants loans mainly to countries friendly with the United States, but forces its clients to fill requirements and comply with demands that damage the poorer sectors in the countries which are receiving the loans. This new loan, which is suffocating Dominican workers, will not solve the Dominican Republic's real problems: unemployment is greater that 23 percent of the active work force; half of the country's inhabitants -- who number less than 6 million -- receive only 13 percent of the country's revenues; 100,000 peasant families do not have land, where the economy is dominated by single crop cultivation and total dependence on the United States.

Logically, Juan Bosch, former president and top representative of the Dominican Liberation Party, said that the people will not be able to resist the effects of the price increases, which will create true chaos in the country. Last weekend construction materials, fuel, cargo transportation and others, a 25-percent increase in electricity tariffs, and a 50-percent in urban bus fares were also added to the list of increased prices.

After the first protest movements in the Dominican Republic, the people's organized reaction followed. Grouped in popular struggle committees, they called for a general 24-hour strike on Monday to demand that the unpopular measures be lifted. Most of the news agancies reported that many stores closed their doors, there was little work activity, and an intensification of the heavy vigilance by the military and anti-riot police.

While these events took place, President Salvador Jorge Blanco asked the Dominicans not to resort to violence and to patiently accept the economic measures. Such an incredible request makes the president's ineptitude obvious, as his words only serve to aggravate the situation. The serious events in the Dominican Republic prove the futility of a government's surrender to the IMF, subordinating national sovereignty to foreign capital and turning a deaf ear to popular demands.

CAMACHO ACCEPTED AS SANTIAGO FIRST SECRETARY

FL051230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] The ninth special plenum of the party provincial committee has been held in Santiago de Cuba with party First Secretary Fidel Castro presiding. At the proposal of the party Politburo, the ninth plenum agreed to release Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera from his position of first secretary of the party provincial committee. This decision corresponds with the transfer of personnel announced at the 11th plenum of the party Central Committee so Balaguer can take on his assigned responsibilities in the Secretariat of the Central Committee.

Julio Camacho Aguilera, Politburo member, was proposed to the plenum for the post of party first secretary in Santiago de Cuba and accepted by the plenum. In his address, party First Secretary Fidel Castro spoke of the party's work and the international matters taken up at the recent Central Committee plenum.

STRIKES CONTINUE; BOSCH DISCUSSES SITUATION

PA052033 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Work stoppages and general strikes continue to increase in the Dominican Republic. Military forces surrounded the building where former Dominican Republic President Juan Bosch lives, but left after massive popular protests. The former President Juan Bosch himself confirmed this fof the "Sandinist Drumbeat" newscast during a telephone interview from Santo Domingo. That interview follows:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] This is Radio Sandino of Managua.

[Bosch] Yes, how are you there?

[Reporter] We have received reports that the police surrounded your home.

[Bosch] Not the police, but military forces. They were searching all those leaving the building in which I live. I live in a six-floor... [corrects himself] I mean a building with six apartments. However, there was much popular protest and the military forces have already withdrawn.

[Reporter] Why do you think they...

[Bosch, interrupting] They were here from 0100 to 1230.

[Reporter] What prompted troop mobilization in front of your home?

[Bosch] Well, there is an atmosphere of general concern because the economic crisis is very serious and this brings about strikes. There are three, four, or five strikes every day involving businessmen in several places or neighborhoods of the capital city. This is a large city with more than 1.5 million inhabitants.

The government believes that those strikes are led by leftist political parties and that we are taking part in this.

[Reporter] And what kind of mobilization are the people taking part in throughout the country?

[Bosch] Well, they are mostly taking part in strikes -- there is a general strike that is covering the entire country.

[Reporter] What is your view on the government charge that the leftist parties are to blame for promoting this situation?

[Bosch] Well, this is a government that is unable to tackle economic problems and find political solutions to those problems. Therefore, it resorts to force or excessive propaganda against a popular organization that is protesting the serious crisis.

[Reporter] Before ending this interview, we would like you to address the Nicaraguan people at a time when military aggressions against our country have increased.

[Bosch] Well, I would like to tell the Nicaraguan people that during the Sandino years, when it was very difficult to leave the Dominican Republic, one Dominican went and fought beside Sandino in the Segovias for a long time. In that same way, the Dominican people today support the Nicaraguan people in their difficult times. There are many Dominicans willing to do whatever is necessary to ensure Nicaragua's independence and the right of its people to detemine their country's destiny.

[Reporter] Well, that was former President Juan Bosch. Radio Sandino thanks you for your statements from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, regarding the situation in his country and the military siege that was maintained in front of your home. We thank you very much.

[Bosch] Thank you. So long.

[Reporter] So long. [end recording]

POPULAR UNITY COUNCIL CALLS FOR RELEASE OF LEADER

FL051224 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] The Council of Popular Unity has called for the release of Mr P. de Franco. It said that in response to this type of pressure, it would call a general strike for next Monday. The council last night called for the release of its (?secretary) general, Mr P. de Franco, saying he had done nothing to warrant imprisonment.

The popular struggle committees from the northern area, which includes the National District, also demanded De Franco's release and said that he had been detained by secret service agents when he was on San Miguel Avenue.

CARICOM SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS TOUR MEMBER STATES

FL051918 Bridgetown CANA in English 1524 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 5, CANA -- Officials of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretariat are on a swing through member countries to monitor progress made in implementing decisions taken at the Caricom summit last July to expand sagging intra-regional trade.

A team including the director of economics and industry, Byron Blake, visited here last week in advance of a forthcoming meeting of trade ministers under the Common Market Council of Ministers. This part of a trip throughout member states, said Blake. [as received] We want to find out what is happening and discuss with the ministries of trade...their perception of the situation.

The Nassau summit agreed to raise tariffs on selected products to protect them from extra-regional imports and for members to buy more from each other. All decisions were to have been implemented by January 1.

A Caricom Council meeting, scheduled for the end of January, was postponed at the request of Trinidad and Tobago. The reason given was that officials were busy with budget matters, but THE GUARDIAN newspaper has quoted a Trade Ministry official as saying this country was unhappy about a continuing wide trade deficit with Caricom.

Trinidad and Tobago, which absorbs more than half of the goods made in Caricom, pledged at Nassau to dismantle protectionist barriers if its partners bought more locally-made products. In 1984, Trinidad and Tobago had a TT65.7-million dollar (175.2 million dollar excluding petroleum) deficit with Caricom.

BERMUDA

STUBBS RESIGNS FROM CABINET; LESEUR QUITS SENATE

FL041934 Bridgetown CANA in English 1840 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Feb 4, CANA -- Industry and Technology Minister Dr John Stubbs has resigned from the cabinet and parliamentary secretary for tourism, Paul Leseur, has quit the Senate (upper house), both citing professional reasons.

Dr Stubbs' decision came as no surprise to Premier John Swan because least May the surgeon wrote to him asking to be replaced. But the resignation of Leseur, an hotelier, was unexpected since he had seemed in line for a cabinet post.

When Dr Stubbs last year asked to be replaced the request was attributed to a professional disagreement between Dr Stubbs and his cabinet and medical colleague Dr Clarence James, now the island's finance minister. When asked by reporters if that same disagreement had prompted his resignation Dr Stubbs said: No comment.

Dr Stubbs, who became the island's first minister of industry and technology in 1983, said he had not been forced to resign. I feel I need the time to work at my surgical practice, he added. He will remain an MP.

Leseur, appointed a senator two years ago, said: I have dedicated an awful lot of time to the Senate and I am just not putting enough time into my business.

GRENADA

PARLIAMENT RATIFIES ALL LAWS PASSED UNDER BISHOP

FL051606 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] The Grenadian Parliament has ratified all laws passed during the four and one-half years of the Morris Bishop administration, during which the Constitution was suspended. The legislation also ratified laws passed by the 1-year interim government that took office after the U.S.-led military intervention.

The bill, which is expected to go to the Senate on Friday, was passed during Parliament's first session since it was established December 28th. In the opening session of the Parliament, the only Grenada United Labor Party member to win a seat in the December 3d elections defied his party's orders and was sworn in. Marcel Peters, who won the seat from the rural constituency of St Andrew's Northeast, resigned immediately after the elections, charging they were rigged. Mr Peters said he decided to take his seat because his constituents asked him to.

ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER RESIGNS; TREASURY REJECTS CHECKS

F1051618 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] The speaker of the National Assembly in St Kitts-Nevis, Herman (Libird), has resigned. Sources on the island of Nevis say talk of secession is increasing amid charges that the central government treasury has rejected checks from Nevis. A spokesman says the bank with which Nevis does business, not the central government, returned the checks because Nevis exceeded its limit at the bank. Tomorrow's session of the National Assembly will take up the issue of electing a new speaker.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

POPE JOHN PAUL II ARRIVES FOR 7-HOUR VISIT

PA060040 Paris AFP in Spanish 2229 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Port of Spain, 5 Feb (AFP) -- After more than a 1-hour delay, Pope John Paul II arrived at 1730 (2136 GMT) in Port-of-Spain, capital of Trinidad and Tobago, for a 7-hour visit to this Caribbean island located east of Venezuela.

As soon as he got off the Peruvian Air Force plans, the pope kissed the ground as he usually does when he arrives in a country that he has never visited before.

John Paul II, who arrived on the island as it stopped raining, was welcomed at the airport by President Ellis Clarke and Prime Minister George Chambers. After the welcoming ceremony at the airport, John Paul II left for the national stadium where he will say mass for 30,000 people. After the mass and before leaving Port-of-Spain, the last leg of his Latin American trip, John Paul II will attend a reception given in his honor by President Clarke.

The 1.3 million people of Trinidad and Tobago are 60 percent Catholic and of various races including Indian, black, Hindu, Chinese, and white.

VENEZUELA SEEKING EXPANDED COMMERCIAL TIES

FL051554 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Despite a border conflict that dates back to the 19th century, Venezuela is seeking expanded commercial ties with Guyana. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul says Venezuela has brought significant amounts of bauxite from Guyana and, on this week's trip, he will study other commercial areas such as agriculture and fishing, which could lead to expanded commercial ties between the two countries. For years, Venezuela and Guyana have been involved in a dispute over Guyana's mineral-rich Essequibo region, an area which once was part of Venezuela and is still claimed by Venezuela.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION TALKS WITH BARBADOS BEGIN

FL050208 Bridgetown CANA in English 1836 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 4, CANA -- Ministers from Barbados and Guyana begin talks here today aimed at concluding a treaty of economic cooperation. The talks are expected to lead specifically to agreements related to trade in fishing and timber.

Guyana's finance minister, Carl Greenidge led his country's delegation while the 12-member Barbados team included the ministers of agriculture, labour, and housing. Deputy prime minister and minister of trade and industry, Bernard St John was due later today.

No official statements were made at the start of the talks.

Guyana's indebtedness to Barbados under the suspended Caribbean Community (Caricom) Multi-Lateral Clearing Facility [CMCF] currently estimated at U.S. 50 million dollars, spurred the talks. The CMCF, a loan clearinghouse, to support regional trade, collapsed in 1983, after Guyana had used up almost all of its U.S. 100-million dollar credit limit.

Officials said it is hoped that Guyana's debts could be reduced by supplying timber to Barbados, which may also finish semi-processed imported Guyanese hardwood and sell to other Eastern Caribbean countries.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA -- Guyana's new ambassador to Venezuela will arrive in Caracas on January 19 to present her credentials to President Jaime Lusichi. (Sheryl Mills) will replace Rudolph Collins, who returned to Guyana in December after serving for 6 years in Caracas. The new Guyanese ambassador will arrive in Venezuela just 20 days before the scheduled visit to Georgetown by Venezuela's foreign minister. [Text] [Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 11 Jan 85 FL]